STC 7502

I

R

I AMES, By the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes and their Officials, Parsons, Vicers, Curates, and all Spirituall persons: And to all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffs, Constables, Churchwardens and Headboroughes: And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, Townes Corporate: And to all other our Officers Ministers and Subiects whatsoever they be, as well within Liberties as without, to whom these presents shall come greeting. Whereas we have been very credibly certified, by certificate vnder the hands of our trustie and welbeloued subiects, Sir Francis Darcie knight, Sir Thomas Fowler knight, Sir Lewis Lewknor knight, Sir William Slingsby knight, Sir Baptist Hickes knight, Nicholas Collyn and Thomas Saunderson Esquiers, Justices of the Peace within our Countie of Middlesex. That our louing Subiect, Iohn Butler of Heason, in our sayd Countie Brewer, hauing heretofore bene a man of worth and estimation, is now fallen into great want and pouertie, by reason of a sodaine and most lamentable accident by fire, happening vpon Monday, being the fiftenth day of May, last past before the date hereof, about ten of the clock in the night beginning first in the Brew-house and in short time increased so fast and grew so vehement, that it could not be quenched, vntill it had quite burnt & consumed the said Brew-house, together with his dwelling house, Barne, Stables, and other out-houses, and goods and Chattells therein, amounting to the valew of a thowsand pounds at the least, to the vtter vndoing of him, his poore wife and children, who having heretofore lived in wealth and plentie, are now like to perish for want of thinges necessary, vnlesse the Charitable benevolence, of our louing and well disposed subiects, be effectually extended towards them in this their great want and misery.

KNOW ye therefore, that We (tendring the lamentable estate of our said poore Subiect) of our especiall grace and Princely compassion haue giuen and graunted, and by these our Letters Patents doe giue and grant vnto our said poore subiect Iohn Butler, and to his Deputy or Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers hereof, full power, licence, and authority, to aske, gather, receiue and take the almes and charitable benevolence of all our louing Subiects whatsoever, inhabiting within our Counties of Middlesex, Buckingham, Northampton, Leicester and Warwicke, with our Citty of Couentry, And all other Cities, Townes Corporate, Priuiledged places, Parishes, Villages, and other places whatsoever, within our said Counties and not else where, as well for and towards the new building of his said house, as for and towards the releife and maintenance of him, his poore Wife and Children.

WHEREFORE Wee will and command you and every of you, that at such times as the said Iohn Butler, his Deputie or Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers hereof, shall come and repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places to aske and receiue the gratuites and charitable benevolence of our said Subiects: quietly to permit and suffer him or them so to doe, without any your lets or contradictions. And you the said Parsons, Vicars and Curates, for the better stirring vp of a charitable deuotion, deliberately to publish and declare the tenor of these our Letters Patents vnto our said subiects exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberall contributions in so good and charitable a deede: And you the Churchwardens of euery Parish where such collection shall be made as aforesaid, to collect and gather the charitable deuotion and benevolence of our said Subiects, and the same so gathered, to deliuer it to our said subiect Iohn Butler, his Deputie or Deputies the bearer or bearers hereof, when as thereunto you shall be required: Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or prouision heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

IN witnes whereof we haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents, for the space of one whole yeare next after the Date hereof to indure. Witnes our selfe at Westminster the fiftenth day of Iune, in the fourteenth yeare of our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the nine and fortieth.

Steward.

God saue the King.

At London Printed by T.P.